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Huron's church lots continued

(Editor's note: This is the 24th in a series of "then and now" articles on places and things of interest in Kansas City, Kan., compiled by area historian Margaret Landis in observance of the 100th birthday of KCK in 1986. Much of the information has appeared in past editions of The Kansan.)



Pictured is a May 1916 view of 7th Street and Minnesota Avenue, looking north on 7th. The photo was taken from a postcard from the files of Joseph Firestone. On the southeast corner is the Peoples National Bank, the forerunner of the Security National Bank Building.

(Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.)

In the continuing story of the four corners of Huron Place designated as "church lots" we move to the northwest corner.

Keeping in mind that Huron Place is bounded by Minnesota and Ann Avenues, 6th to 7th streets, we have covered the southeast, southwest and northeast corners in that order.

On the southeast corner were St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church and the Grund Hotel; on the southwest corner, the German Methodist Church, Saint James AME Church (later the First African Methodist Episcopal Church), and now the Scottish Rite Temple; and on the northeast corner, namely the First Presbyterian Church of Wyandotte, the Portsmouth Building and Annex, and now the Commercial National Bank.

Located on the northwest corner were the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Banking Trust Company Building, the Peoples national Bank Building and now the old Security National Bank Building.

When the Wyandotte City Town Company began deeding out the church lots, it did not own a half-acre, triangular tract of land west of the Huron Indian Cemetery (northwest corner). Hiram M. Northrup and his wife, Margaret, received this property as part of their Wyandotte allotment.

As members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, they gave the land for a church. A white frame church was built in 1857 and in 1860 Northrup deeded the property to the church. After the Civil War, construction of a new brick building was begun in 1870 at the same location. When the county court house was being built on the opposite corner (northwest corner of 7th and Minnesota Avenue), the county rented part of the church building for a court room during the week.

The church building was never finished and had to be condemned. In October 1886 a new location was secured on the northeast corner of 7th Street and State Avenue. The first service was held in the Sunday School room Jan. 15, 1888. The Seventh Street United Methodist Church continues to worship in this building.

By this time, Minnesota Avenue had developed as the main business street. The old church site was sold for commercial use March 1887.

The church lot was 12 to 15 feet above the grade on Minnesota Avenue. The lot was leveled to the grade on the avenue, which left the Huron Indian Cemetery on an elevation. The eastern side of the cemetery, where the old Central School had been located, was graded in the construction of the Carnegie Library (1902) to its present level. There are retaining walls around the cemetery.

Banking Trust Company

The Banking Trust Company was started in 1903 at 651 Minnesota Avenue. C.B. Hoffman was president; J.W. Breidenthal, vice president and manager; and W.W. Cook, secretary and treasurer. The capital -- \$200,000. An early advertisement read: "Real Estate Guardian and Administrator. We have first mortgage real estate investments for sale from \$10 up to net investor 6 per cent.:

The Stubbs Building was a two-story building east of the Banking Trust Company on Minnesota Avenue.

By 1914 the Banking Trust Company had moved to 636 Minnesota Avenue. (This is the present location of the office of U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan.)

< National >

With the growth of Kansas City, Kan. in population and enterprise, another National Bank was needed. In January 1909 the People national Bank was organized with a capital stock of \$200,000. The bank was on the corner of 7th Street and Minnesota Avenue opposite the Post Office.

The bank building was a three-story, red-brick structure with large wooden bay window (oriel) on the upper floors.

Security National Bank

In October 1933 the former Security State Bank and the people National Bank consolidated to form the Security national Bank. The Security State Bank was at 18th and Central Avenue and was founded by Maurice L. Breidenthal in 1911.

The former Peoples National Bank Building was extensively remodeled both inside and outside.

Other banks that merged with Security National Bank: Riverview State Bank, 7th and Central Avenue, founded in 1903 with Willard J. Breidenthal as president, which merged in 1962; and Victory state Bank, 18th and Minnesota Avenue and 19th and Central Avenue, founded in 1926 with Dr. George M. Gray as president, which merged in 1974.

New Security Bank Building

In March 1977 the Security national Bank moved to a new building on the southwest corner of 7th Street and Minnesota Avenue -- the location of the old Federal Building and Post Office.

The name was changed this year from the Security National Bank to the Security Bank.

The older structure across the street has remained vacant.